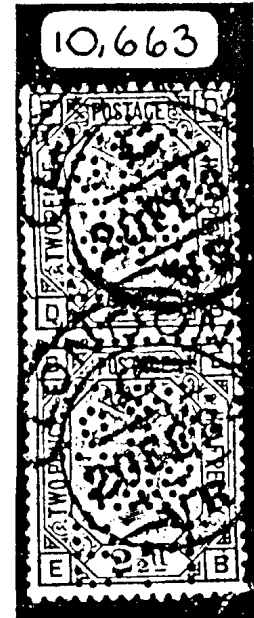


At Autumn Stampex, I was shown this pair of stamps perfinned with the 'Crown B.T.' of the Board of Trade. The description on the card read:- "1881 2½ Blue, Plate 22, Wmk. Imp. Cr. A vertical pair lettered D-B, E-B perfinned with type I "CROWN B.T." for the Board of Trade. The pair has been cancelled with two "Royal Scroll" cancels dated 20 FB 84. A single example of this very rare combination is mentioned in "G.B. OFFICIAL PERFINS" by Edwards and Lucas, 1984. A very rare, probably unique item. SG 157 Sc 82 Price £475."



The dealers, Kensington Philatelics, had sent the pair to be expertised. A photocopy of the certificate was attached to the item. It read:- "The Committee is of the opinion that the Great Britain 1881, 2½d blue, Plate 22, Wmk Imp. Cr., Perf 14 with perfin Crown BT (Type I). vertical pair used with Royal Scroll Cancellations is genuine" It is numbered.

The price they were asking was definitely out of my range!!

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